

## GETTING UNDER THE WIRE

Aunt Nonie never wanted  
Papa to move to California  
she cried a lot when he left  
in 1934

Next year she wrote to him  
in her henscratching hand  
on lined paper with a pencil

Your Uncle Clint backslid several  
times after you left

but not enough to go to hell  
he repented at the altar  
when the preacher gave a call

and broke all his whiskey bottles  
the day before he died

## POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: 6/10/89

Waiting in line  
I heard a woman  
ask the man behind  
the gas pump

Where is that caravan  
going  
all those cars decked out  
with flags and stickers

The man said evenly  
They're headed up to Jamestown  
Democrats are giving a barbeque  
for Jerry Brown  
my son-in-law is there right now  
helpin' to put it on

Me  
I liked the old man fine  
when he was governor  
but this boy of his has always  
drove me nuts